

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, PINT, UR

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF LENINGRAD
 KIROV BALLET AND PLISETSKAYA/BOLSHOI
 US TOURS

ATTN: PC COUNSELOR NALLE

1. CAMI OFFICIALS WILFORD AND NIEFELD HAVE JUST ARRANGED
APPOINTMENT JANUARY 11 WITH FURTSEVA TO DISCUSS
POTENTIAL REPERCUSSIONS OF PANOV CASE ON KIROV TOUR.
SUDDEN NATURE OF TRIP IS DICTATED, IN CAMI'S VIEW, BY
FAILURE OF SOVIETS TO RESPOND TO EARLIER, LOWER-LEVEL
APPROACHES TO GOSKONTSERT AND SOVEMB ON PROBLEMS FOR
CAMI CREATED BY PANOV CASE.

2. CAMI PLANS TO LAY OUT IN DETAIL TO FURTSEVA SERIOUS
DIFFICULTIES CAMI IS HAVING IN BOOKING HALLS FOR KIROV
IN VIEW OF SOVIET POSITION ON PANOVS EMIGRATION.
ACCORDING TO NIEFELD, IMPRESARIOS IN SEVERAL MAJOR
CITIES ARE REFUSING TO SIGN CONTRACTS FOR KIROV BECAUSE
OF PANOV PROBLEM. CAMI WILL ALSO TELL FURTSEVA THEIR

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CONCERNS ABOUT ADEQUATE SECURITY FOR COMPANY, AGAIN

BECAUSE OF PANOV CASE. IN ADDITION, CAMI IS NOW NOT RPT NOT CERTAIN, BECAUSE OF US FUEL PROBLEMS, THAT IT CAN ENSURE ADEQUATE AIR TRANSPORTATION FOR COMPANY AND PROPERTIES TO HAVE EFFECTIVE TOUR. IN DISCUSSING THESE

DEVELOPMENTS WITH FURTSEVA, CAMI DOES NOT RPT NOT PLAN TO GO INTO DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF SOVIET UNION, I.E. - ASK SOVIETS TO PERMIT PANOVS TO EMIGRATE.

3. DEPENDING ON FURTSEVA'S STAND, CAMI SAYS IT WILL DECIDE DURING MEETING WHETHER TO ADHERE TO PRESENT SCHEDULE OR POSTPONE KIROV TOUR TO LATER DATE, PERHAPS 1975. CAMI BELIEVES IT CAN NO LONGER POSTPONE DECISION ON WHETHER TO GO AHEAD WITH KIROV TOUR AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED BECAUSE OF LEAD TIME REQUIRED FOR BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS, PUBLICITY PREPARATIONS, TRANSPORTATION, ACCOMMODATIONS, ETC. FURTSEVA'S STAND WILL ALSO HAVE INFLUENCE ON CAMI'S DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO GO AHEAD WITH PLANNED AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1974 TOUR BY PLISETSKAYA AND OTHER ARTISTS OF BOLSHOI BALLET, OR TO POSTPONE IT TO LATER DATE, PERHAPS 1976 OR 1977.
4. IN DISCUSSION WITH CAMI ABOUT FURTSEVA MEETING, DEPT. OFFICERS ASKED NIEFELD SEVERAL TIMES IF CAMI WOULD BE PREPARED TO DELAY ANY DECISION ON POSTPONING TOUR UNTIL AFTER CONSULTING WITH DEPT. FYI.: OUR THOUGHT WAS THAT WE MIGHT WISH, DEPENDING ON CAMI'S REPORT OF MEETING WITH FURTSEVA, TO MAKE HIGH LEVEL DEPT. APPROACH TO SOVIETS ON MATTER OF KIROV TOUR. END FYI. NIEFELD DID NOT RPT NOT THINK THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE. HE DID AGREE, HOWEVER, TO TRY TO INFORM EMBASSY (PC COUNSELOR NALLE) ON FRIDAY EVENING OF RESULTS OF MEETING.
5. WILFORD AND NIEFELD ARRIVING MOSCOW JANUARY 10 VIA LUFTHANSA 342, AND PLAN TO LEAVE EARLY MORNING JANUARY 12. THEY THINK THEY WILL BE STAYING AT METROPLE HOTEL.

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